

Kensey Johns Jr. House
Delaware and 4th Streets
New Castle, Delaware

HABS No. Del- 119✓

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Delaware

Historic American Buildings Survey
Weston H. Blake, District Officer
909 West Street, Wilmington, Delaware

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KENSEY JOHNS, JR. HOUSE
New Castle, New Castle County, DelawareOwner: John H. Rodney EstateDate of Erection: 1823Present Condition: ExcellentNumber of Stories: Two and one halfMaterials of Construction: Brick above street level. Usual employment of wood in structural members and in exterior and interior finish. Former shingle roof now tin.Other Existing Records: Offices of Recorder of Deeds and Register of Wills of New Castle County.

Additional Data: The mass and general effect of this building are still Georgian but the details have changed from the Roman Classical type to the later Greek Revival Forms. The massive chimneys connected by a horizontal wall, masking the gable ends are to be noted. Also the enlarged windows and lights. Six entrance steps lead to a first story, somewhat higher than in earlier dwellings. This gives an above ground cellar, consequently dryer and better lighted, and the exterior gains the impressiveness of the added height (increased also by higher ceiling heights. The desire of the builder to secure absolute exterior balance and to place the front entrance in the exact center, and also to give the parlor and dining room their maximum width has led to interesting complications in the interior of the entrance doorway and hall partitions. (Shown in the interior hall photographs). Note that the west corner first story room, formerly and now an office, is an example of the office forming an integral portion of the residence, with only partial isolation from the living portion.

Lussat R Rogers

Approved

Walter H. Blake
District Officer

Rev. Jan. 9 '31 TWC